

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph as set forth below.

**[0007]** Sun Microsystems<sup>TM</sup> of Mountain View, CA, originally created the concept of diskless workstations that performed diskless booting. A server was provided that hosted a single operating system image that was targeted for a homogeneous set of client workstations. When a workstation booted from its resident BIOS, it would connect to its network and request a copy of the operating system image from the server. In response to the request, the server would send the image to the client. The client would load the image into its local memory and boot from the local memory. This approach worked well for homogeneous systems, but could not work with heterogeneous systems. It further required that an entire operating system image be downloaded to a client workstation and did not take into account the problem of managing and updating individual core software components.

Please substitute paragraph [0080] with the following amended paragraph as set forth below.

**[0080]** When a node 302 boots up with software packages and version information stored in its local storage 305, the node 302 negotiates with the master node 301 to decide what software packages to use. The node ~~[[305]]~~ 302 passes the software version information that it believes it should be running to the master node 301. The master node 301 checks with its node database 303 to determine the proper software packages for the node 302. If the node has the proper software packages, the master node tells the node to boot using its resident software packages.